

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 24 December 2004 (24.12.2004);
original claims 1-27 unchanged ; original claims 28-30 cancelled ;
original claim 31 renumbered as claim 28 (2 pages)]

- 5 (i) said first RNA region comprises a nucleotide sequence of at least 100 consecutive nucleotides having at least about 90% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence of a gene from *Arabidopsis thaliana* involved in the development of a dehiscence zone and valve margin of said pod;
- (ii) said second RNA region comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to said 100 consecutive nucleotides of said first RNA region;
- 10 (iii) said first and second RNA region are capable of base-pairing to form a double stranded RNA molecule between at least said 100 consecutive nucleotides of said first and second region.
22. A chimeric gene as described in any one of claims 1 to 21.
- 15 23. A cell of a *Brassicaceae* plant comprising the chimeric gene according to claim 22.
24. A *Brassicaceae* plant obtainable by the methods of any one of claims 1 to 22.
- 20 25. A *Brassicaceae* plant comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 22 stably integrated into the genome of its cell.
26. Progeny of the *Brassicaceae* plant according to claim 24 or 25 comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 22 stably integrated into the genome of its cells.
- 25 27. Seed from the plants of the *Brassicaceae* plants of any one of the claims 24 to 26, or 25 comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 22 stably integrated into the genome of its cells.
- 30 28. An agricultural method comprising
- (i) sowing seeds according to claim 27 or planting plants according to any one of claims 24 to 26 in a field;

- (ii) growing said plants until the pods are mature;
- (iii) harvesting seeds from said pods by threshing with a combine harvester.